

# Carrie Nation, Famous Crusader, Complained About Smoke in Cutler Depot, Historical Society Told

Carrie Nation, famous crusader of the early 20th century was once a visitor in Cutler where she was offended by railroad depot employees "who practiced the evil of smoking," the Perry County Historical Society was told Monday night.

The story of Joseph Cox, first settler in Perry county and the history of the 12-room "Swanwick Mansion" were also presented at the society's monthly meeting in Masonic hall at Tamaroa.

Thirty members heard the interesting program, including a report by Circuit Clerk S. Dyer Campbell of Pinckneyville on the society's field trip to the historical Silkwood home at Mulkeytown.

President J. Wesley Neville of Du Quoin announced committee assignments and plans were made for the next meeting at Pinckneyville Junior High School November 7 when L. A. Dearing of Mt. Vernon will show color slides of the Illinois Ozark Tours.

Information for last night's program was provided by Mrs. Elizabeth Spurgeon of Pinckneyville.

## ROOM 'POISONED'

Details of Carrie Nation's Cutler visit were contained in a letter written by her from Johnston City on October 22, 1905, to officials of the W. C. & W. Railroad. The letter is now the property of the H. C. Cole Milling Company, Chester.

The famous crusader traveled over the railroad from Pinckneyville to Cutler, where she was a guest of Mrs. Margaret Harshaw, wife of Reverend Michael Harshaw, then pastor of the United Presbyterian Church there.

She complained that young men were smoking in the Cutler depot "and filled the ladies waiting room with this poison". When she called the agent's attention to the condition he "acted sullen", she said, and replied that "he could not control all the people of Cutler".

The woman, who signed her letter "Your Home Defender", later learned that the agent, Thomas White, was Mrs. Harshaw's son-in-law.

## HERE IN 1799

Tradition has it that the Joseph Cox family was already living in Perry county when John Flack and his family, generally regarded as the first settlers to locate here permanently, arrived in 1799, the amateur historians were told.

One hundred acres of land (claim 1410) were deeded to Cox before the year 1820 in payment for building a bridge across Beaucoup creek on what was then known as Lusk's ferry to Kaskaskia, according to records of Roe Abstract Company, Pinckneyville.

Today's travelers may locate the site of the Cox cabin after crossing Beaucoup bridge on route 154 by looking to the left as they approach the Dennis Byerly home. In a field southeast of the Byerly barn stand two persimmon trees. It was there, according to Byerly, that the cabin stood. A short distance west, in what is known as "House Cemetery", also in plain view from route 154, are the graves of the two small Cox children.

Legend has it that Cox may have buried some sort of treasure in or near the graves. About the time of World War I would-be robbers broke into the graves one cold, moonlight night.

Cox was believed to have drowned in Galum creek while making a journey home from Kaskaskia.

## BUILT IN 1848

The history of "The Swanwick Mansion" was written by Shirley Feltmeyer.

The large brick structure, situated north of the present village of Swanwick, was built for the Jonathan Swanwick family about 1848. It was originally intended to be a hotel.

Swanwick, a cattle buyer for the English government, reportedly paid the village \$500 to take his name.

The "mansion" came into the news several years ago when it was involved in a real estate deal in which John R. Sprague, Belleville attorney, secured the land for lease to G. S. Suppiger Company, also of Belleville, a food supply firm.

A social hour followed last night's meeting of the historical society. Sandwiches, doughnuts, cookies and coffee were enjoyed.

DuQUOIN EVENING CALL

Tues. Oct. 4, 1955





# HATCHETWOMAN CARRY

By LOUIS LA COSS  
Editor Emeritus of The Globe-Democrat

A RECENT Globe-Democrat article, urging revision of the antiquated Missouri school laws, observed that on every Sept. 28 one-quarter of the public school day has been designated as Frances Willard Day and it is obligatory to hold "appropriate exercises relative to the history and benefits of the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in the United States.



LA COSS

This is a day more honored in the breach than in the observance and is doubtless the product of that turbulent era in which temperance was a national issue, promoted by Miss Willard as reigning sponsor of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, later given more prominence and vigor by the Anti-Saloon League.

BUT WHEREAS Miss Willard was a flaming champion of temperance, there came out of Kansas a woman who operated in a broader field. Temperance was not enough; it was a top gradual conversion by education.

Carry Nation used direct action. She went after the saloons and the saloon-keepers. She blasted saloons; she destroyed with her hatchets the physical facilities by which men and women used the bottle to sear their minds and wreck homes.

Here was a mission that received its directive straight from the Lord himself. For years her exploits were the talk of the country and curiously, although she was arrested many times, I can find no record of severe punitive action against her by the law.

AS A YOUTH in Kansas, I recall Carry Nation. I never saw her but I certainly heard enough about her. Somewhere I have a tiny hatchet which was the symbol of her crusade. It was the popular thing to wear one on a lapel whether you endorsed the program of saloon destruction or not. Stores sold them for a dime each and they were hawked on trains.

My closest exposure to Mrs. Nation was when she stopped between trains in the little town across the river from where I lived and "closed" a "joint" by knocking all the bottles off the back bar and upending the bar itself.

Kansas has the somewhat unenviable reputation of producing off-beat characters, such as John Brown and Sockless Jerry Simpson. But without doubt Carry Nation is in the vanguard. She was not Kansas-born, yet the state has had to claim her because her forays to rid the nation of evil were confined for the most part to the state of her adoption.

SHE WAS BORN in Garrard county, Kentucky, on Nov. 25, 1846. She was christened Carry Amelia Moore, the daughter of a farmer and his wife who was under the delusion that she was Queen Victoria who had been denied her royal rights because of court intrigue. She died in a Missouri hospital still believing that she had been done wrong.

The Moores moved about—from Kentucky to Missouri, to Oklahoma, to Texas, to Kansas. They farmed a bit and at one time operated a small hotel in Texas. It was there that she met Dr. Charles Gloyd, a young and attractive physician who was the only true love of her life. They were married in 1867, one chronicler reporting that he "showed up at the altar smelling of cloves and alcohol."

WHATEVER HIS condition then, he died a drunkard six months later and from that date Carry was the sworn enemy of intoxicants, to which



she added in later years tobacco and certain fraternal orders which she believed had contributed to the downfall of Dr. Gloyd.

But she did not become an active crusader until 10 years later, after she had married the Rev. David Nation, a part-time lawyer and preacher. They were divorced after 24 years of unhappy married life.

All the while Carry was brooding over the evils to which the world was subjected, a contributing factor to her unrest being the still small voice of Jesus Himself who comforted her and said she had been called to be the martyr to right the wrongs. When the Nations moved to Medicine Lodge, Kansas, and Carry was elected President of the local W.C.T.U., she started to move.

Kansas was voted "dry" in 1880 but three years of legal maneuvering were required before the State Supreme Court ruled it was official. Despite the law against the

manufacture and sale of intoxicants, drinking was the favorite indoor pastime.

FEW TOWNS were without their convivial "joints" where liquor and beer were served without interference. Most masqueraded as "sample rooms" for traveling men. Carry demanded that public officials from the Governor down do something. They didn't. Nor did the newspapers endorse her crusade.

June 5, 1900, was a big date in her calendar. On that day, flaming with indignation and resolved to do something herself, she opened her Bible and at random stuck a pin into the sixtieth chapter of Isaiah. And she read: "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee."

Here was a message from on high, urging her to "rise and shine." Which she did from that time on.

MEDICINE LODGE had its quota of "joints" but Kiowa, some 20 miles away, was worse. So she was off to Kiowa. But first she armed herself with lethal ammunition, stones wrapped in newspapers. She did this because the still small voice told her to "take something in your hands and throw at those places and smash them." She was 54 years old at the time.

So by horse and buggy she arrived in Kiowa at night, "put up" at the hotel, but next morning early started her work of saloon demolition. Her first victim was a Mr. Dobson. She cleaned out his place right—back bar mirror, back bar bottles. She walked out unmolested and



as an after thought hurled a stone through the plate glass window. She moved to other "joints" like an avenging angel which, indeed, she believed she was.

Then followed similar raids on the "murder mills of the metropolis of Wichita," where there were some 40-odd "joints," some of them elaborate. By this time the press the country over was reporting the exploits of the saloon-smasher, publicity which Carry did not shun.

Then she moved on to Topeka where the Senate barroom was her first target, because it was the biggest and prospered within sight of the state capitol. She wrecked it completely, but this time she had added to her arsenal an iron rod about one foot long which she attached to a cane.

It was an effective demolition instrument, but she reserved some of her strength to shatter a back-bar painting of "Cleopatra at the Bath," a study in the nude.

To her it was as vile as a bottle of whisky, and she added such art as targets later. There were many of the kind.

HER ADVENTURE IN Topeka gave her national prominence and other women in other states were inspired to perform as she did. By this time miniature hatchets were standard equipment in almost all stores.

The next step, naturally, was for Carry to be signed for the lyceum circuit across the country, and she appeared as the Home Defender, The Smasher, The Woman With the Hatchet. By the end of 1901 she was without doubt the most famous woman character in America, and her weekly newspaper, The Hatchet, had a large circulation.

Then she went to England, a famous lecturer but she was not the heroine she expected to be. She returned to America in 1909 and, discovering that her popularity had waned, attracted attention by wrecking the bar in Washington's Union Station. There she used three hatchets—Faith, Hope and Charity.

But Carry was no longer the gal she thought she was. She went west, this time to Butte, Mont., where she attempted to wreck May Malloy's Dance Hall & Cafe. This was on Jan. 26, 1910. Miss Malloy, a husky herself, promptly threw her out.

Her smashing days were over. She retired to Eureka Springs, Ark., in January, 1911, quieted but unrepentant. She died in a Leavenworth hospital on June 9 of that year.



THAT IS THE sketchy story of a "commonplace young woman of unusual meekness who was transformed into the most industrious meddler and busybody that the midwest, hotbed of the bizarre, had ever produced."

So says Herbert Asbury who wrote the story of her life, after she had written one—"The Use & the Need of the Life of Carry A. Nation—Written by Herself."

As for the cause of temperance, she achieved little. Even the W.C.T.U. was not her enthusiastic booster. She was a bit too militant even for those folks who hated the saloons.

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FAMOUS HATCHET WIELDER IN CAUSE OF  
TEMPERANCE WHO DIES IN SANITARIUM.

7. June 12, 1916



CARRIE NATION



# CARRIE NATION, THE SMASHER, IS DEAD

Famous Kansas Saloon Foe  
Passes Away in Leavenworth Sanitarium.

## NERVE COLLAPSE CAUSE

Lived Last Days in Seclusion,  
Unable to Manage  
Own Affairs.

## WORK OF HER HATCHET

For Ten Years She Raided  
Saloons in Many Cities  
of the U. S.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE GLOBE-DEMOCRAT.

LEAVENWORTH, KAN., June 9.—Carrie Nation, who gained celebrity by her use of a hatchet in the cause of prohibition, died at 7 o'clock to-night in the Evergreen Sanitarium here. She was 66 years old and had been admitted to the sanitarium January 22, suffering from nervous breakdown.

Although it has been reported several times since she came here that she was dead, her death was not expected until several days ago. At noon to-day she passed into a comatose condition, from which she did not revive.

Mrs. Nation was incapable of even managing her own business affairs when she came here. All trace of the bold prohibition worker had disappeared and she spent the last five months of her life in seclusion, no one but relatives and hospital attendants being allowed to see her.

When told several days ago that she would die, Mrs. Nation made no comment. Only Dr. A. L. Suwalky and a nurse were with her when death came.

### Her Record as a Smasher.

Mrs. Nation's entry into fame was made at Wichita, Kan., several years ago, when she demolished a saloon with a hatchet. Later she repeated the performance in several other Kansas towns. Kansas, however, was too small for her activities, and she carried her sensational fight against saloons to some of the larger cities of the country.

On January 21, 1901, armed with her favorite weapon, a hatchet, Mrs. Nation made another raid in Wichita. This time she smashed two joints. During the next three months Mrs. Nation surprised the jointists in various Kansas towns, appearing unheralded and leaving a trail of wrecked bar room fixtures wherever she went. Many jointists became terror-stricken when the militant temperance advocate appeared in their neighborhood, and locked their doors and fled before the faithful hatchet could get into action.

Remarkably few of the saloon men used violence in resisting Mrs. Nation, although she was assaulted and badly hurt while wrecking a joint at Enterprise, Kansas.

### Shocked the Vanderbilts.

Mrs. Nation, after her activities in Kansas, became a lecturer and the editor of a paper called the Smasher's Mail. While lecturing in New York City she created a sensation by appearing at the horse show in Madison Square Garden and demanding that the occupants of the Vanderbilt box contribute money for a home for drunkards' wives, which she founded in Kansas City, Kan. The home recently was taken over by the Associated Charities in Kansas City, Mo.

Mrs. Nation was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Moore of Woodford County, Ky. George Moore, Mrs. Nation's father, was twice married. His second wife, the mother of Mrs. Nation, was a Miss Campbell of Boyle County, Ky. Some of the best people in Kentucky are related to Mrs. Nation.

Mr. Moore was a trader in live stock and a farmer. At one time he was wealthy, but he lost his fortune. Mrs. Moore was deeply religious, and brooded so often over religious subjects it is said her mind finally became deranged, and she was taken to an asylum, where she died.

When Carrie was 14 years old her father moved with his family from Kentucky to Missouri. Soon after that she was married to a Dr. Gloyd, who, she says, was a drunkard and misused her. He died in the late '70s, and in a year or two Mrs. Gloyd married David Nation.

In the early '80s Mr. Nation was prosecuting attorney at Muncie, Ind., and under President Garfield was appointed inspector of revenue on the Brazos River, Texas. He moved to Texas and held his office until Cleveland took it away from him and gave it to a Democrat.

### Second Husband Divorced Her.

Then Mr. Nation went to Richmond, Tex. There he started the Richmond Democrat, which he filled with Republican politics. The newspaper did not pay and Mr. Nation sold out. He next built a hotel in the town. He and his wife ran the hotel and made money fast. Mrs. Nation undertook to look after the spiritual as well as the bodily welfare of the guests of the hotel. She insisted that they should attend church. Many a cowboy was led by her to the house of worship with about as little ceremony as he would employ in yanking a calf at the end of his lariat to the branding fire.

In the District Court of Barber County, Kan., August 10, 1901, David Nation brought suit against Carrie Nation for divorce, charging in his petition that she was too engrossed in her joint-smashing campaigns to attend to her household duties.

When Mrs. Nation was told of the event she is quoted as having said: "I am glad David took this step. We both have been living a lie ever since we were married, twenty-three years ago. He is a good man, but too slow for me. I wouldn't give up my freedom again for the best man that ever stretched shoe leather."

The body will be sent to Kansas City, Kan., where a nephew lives, to-morrow morning. Funeral services will be held there probably Sunday.



## Carrie Nation Visited Cutler

By Lily Flynn  
of County Journal

Colorful Carrie Nation, a nationally known staunch supporter of the temperance movement of the late 1890s and early 1900s, was once a visitor in Cutler.

Mrs. Nation, nee Carry Amelia Moore, (1846-1911) a native of Kentucky married an alcoholic in 1867 and moved to Kansas. Her marriage to him was a brief unhappy one due to his drinking and they were divorced. Because of his drinking problem, she developed a hatred of all liquor and saloons. Later she remarried. This marriage to David Nation lasted 23 years but it, too, ended in divorce.

Mrs. Nation enlisted the help of women with similar problems and began a crusade against liquor. Sometimes alone and sometimes with a number of women, she would march into local saloons praying and singing hymns, severely scolding bar room customers and smashing fixtures and bottles with hatchets. It is said many Kansas bartenders feared her and would duck behind their bars when they saw her coming with her "little hatchet". Later she discontinued this method of protest and concentrated on lectures visiting many states, Canada and England. Her

### Opposed Tobacco, Liquor And Other Evils

"drunken first husband" was also a member of a prominent fraternal order. She added fraternal orders and later tobacco, foreign foods, corsets, skirts of 'improper length' and bar room paintings to her crusade list.

Her visit to Cutler was in 1905. She was on the Wabash, Chester and Western train (WCW) which was making a routine trip to Chester. She stopped at the Cutler railroad station and was very displeased with the treatment she felt she received from station employees, and after leaving wrote a letter to railroad officials at Johnston City.

As was her usual custom, when she noticed the two young Cutler ticket sellers smoking, she lectured them on the evils of tobacco. They paid no attention to her. When the station agent returned, he too ignored her remarks.

In her letter, she wrote "there were two young ticket sellers

(not the agent, he wasn't there) who practiced the evil of smoking filling the ladies' waiting room with this evil poison". She complained "all tobacco users are poor persons to depend on because of the time they gave to their boss—tobacco" adding that "cigarettes are worse".

She wrote, "all smokers could not be depended upon, their minds are unreliable, they steal, tell falsehoods and should not be employed by a railroad where the lives of the public are at stake. Besides it is an assault to have this fearful poison thrown in your face".

She complained about the attitudes of station employees—the young ticket sellers who paid no attention to her and the station agent who was sullen and informed her she "didn't hire him" and "made no attempt to stop the young men from their evil habit".

She concluded her letter by stating she was taking time from her busy life to write it and she hoped it was not in vain, signing it "Carrie A. Nation, your home defender".

Although this happened many years ago and Mrs. Nation was ridiculed and considered a radical of her time, history repeats itself, and currently various groups are continuing a crusade against smoking in public and the use of alcohol.

